

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-38 are currently pending in the above-captioned application. The Examiner issued a restriction requirement in the Office Action in which it is urged that there are three separate and distinct inventions claimed in this application. In response, Applicants elect the group II, claims 31-36 of the invention as set forth in claims. Claims 39-60 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which Applicants consider to be their invention.

Further, Applicants were requested to elect a single species. In response, Applicants make the following elections:

a) Election of specific gas

The gas perfluorobutane is elected. Claims 39-41 cover this gas.

b) Election of stabilising agent

Phosphatidylserines are elected. Claims 42-46 cover these species. One particular phosphatidylserine compound is distearylphosphatidylserine (DSPS), see e.g. examples 1 and 25.

c) Election of single specific vector

The species elected is dipalmitoyl-KRKRWQPPRARI, a lipopeptide consisting of heparin sulphate binding peptide (KRKR) and a fibronectin peptide (WOPPRARI) which is covered by claim 49.

d) Election of single therapeutic agent

Atenolol is elected. Atenolol is a beta-blocker covered by claim 58.

e) Election of a single species

The species of example 25 (Multiple-specific PFB (perfluorobutane) gas-filled microbubbles encapsulated with DSPS (distearylphosphatidylserine) and a lipopeptide

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comprising a heparin sulphate binding peptide (KRKR) and a fibronectin peptide (WOPPRARI) for targeting and a lipopeptide containing atenolol for therapeutic applications) is elected.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected claims at a later time.

Applicants make the election without traverse.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to resolve any issues that might arise and to promote the efficient examination of the current application.

Respectfully submitted,

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